



In the Claims:

1. (original) A prodrug for use in the treatment of physiological conditions comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, wherein the carrier moiety is chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n , where aa is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where n is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally.
2. (original) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein n is an integer from 3 to 6.
3. (original) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein n is 5.
4. (original) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met.
5. (original) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the prodrug further comprises a non-therapeutic linker species linking the polypeptide to the carrier species.
6. (original) The prodrug of claim 5, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.
7. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4 methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n , where aa is an amino acid or a chemical structural variation thereof, where n is an integer from 2 to 10, wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, and a pharmaceutically effective adjuvant species.
8. (withdrawn) A method for enhancing the oral availability of therapeutic polypeptides of the general formula formula aa_n , where aa is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where n is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, wherein the method comprises the steps of chemically linking the polypeptide to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.
10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

11. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a physiological condition through the oral administration of a therapeutically effective species comprising the steps of:

- a.) chemically linking a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n , where aa is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where n is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and
- b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient exhibiting the physiological condition.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

14. (withdrawn) A method for the controlled release administration of a therapeutically effective polypeptide of the general formula aa_n , where aa is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where n is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, comprising the steps of:

- a.) chemically linking a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and
- b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

A2 17. (new) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the prodrug is cinnamoyl-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met-).

18. (new) The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the carrier is cinnamoyl.
